

# Weare Conservation Commission

## Minutes

### March 9, 2005

In attendance were: Andy Fulton, John Ciampi, Tom Carr, Steve Najjar, Pat Myers, and Andrea Alderman.

Chairman Carr called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

**1) Review of minutes for 2/09/05** – John read the draft version of last months meeting, and the following changes were made:

- Include Steve Najjar in the attendance line.
- In topic #2, 5<sup>th</sup> line up from bottom of topic, remove the period after the word “accept”.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> page, 2<sup>nd</sup> line down, change “site plan” to “subdivision plan”.
- Under topic #5, 9<sup>th</sup> line down, change “has Paul” to “and Paul”.
- Same topic as above, 11<sup>th</sup> line down, change “Were” to “Weare”.
- Same topic as above, 4<sup>th</sup> line up from bottom, change “Steve cautioned” to “Tom cautioned”.
- In topic #6, 1<sup>st</sup> line, change “LCHIP” to “LCIP”.

Steve made motion to approve the minutes as amended, and John 2<sup>nd</sup>. There was no further discussion, and all voted to approve the minutes as amended.

**2) Wetland Applications and/or Discussion:**

- Abijah Bridge – Engineering for this project is still seeking more information concerning this undertaking to ferret out any potential negative impacts to the sensitive wetland. As to date, this bridge project has not been approved. Pat asked Tom if he had heard anything concerning the funding for the dam at this site which will help to regulate the water level intended to protect the wildlife dwelling in this prime wetland location. Steve addressed this issue by saying that there is an organization called WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program) which operates under the Farm Bill. Steve explained that they have ample funding this year, and if this project qualifies for financial assistance, funding would be made available for 75% of the cost, not to exceed \$37,500. Tom said he copied Margaret Watkins of the PWA on Steve’s e-letter which explained WHIP’s assistance. Pat stated she would contact Margaret to determine her reaction to this program and its potentialities. Andy made a motion to give Tom permission to fill out an application for the Town with WHIP to secure funding for the Abijah Bridge dam, and Pat 2<sup>nd</sup>. All voted to approve this motion, and the motion carried. Tom asked Pat to inform him of Margaret’s response to this issue.
- Hi-Point – Located on tax map 22.1 at the terminus of Russell Rd., an application has been filed to put in place 20 cu. yd. of rip-rap along the beach water line, comprising a 9 ft. X 13 ft. section. The intent of this application is

to restore the beach to its normal condition, and to help prevent further erosion. This property belongs to the Hi-Point Association, and there is a conservation easement attached to it. Tom reviewed the folder containing the deed and also examined the use limitations along with other pertinent data associated with the terms of this easement. Steve contemplated why the Town would involve itself in this easement since it offers no obvious benefits to the Town, and is difficult to oversee and enforce the terms of this easement. Andy made motion to allow Tom write a letter to DES to allow this filling operation to occur. All members voted in the positive, and the motion carried. Tom also proposes to ask DES for advice in minimizing erosion damage caused by boat wakes. Tom feels this problem is becoming more prevalent.

- Ron Rivard – Had to make revisions to his locus map.
- Roger Hurry – Located on 37 Pleasant Pond Rd., in which DES inspected a bridge under construction at this location, but they could not determine if the abutments were in the jurisdictional wetland because of the ice and snow. Mainly issued as a caveat.

**3) Jenny Tolace, of TNC NH** – Wrote a letter to Tom asking about conservation lands in Weare, such as: are the lands legally protected, what are the easement/deed restrictions, whether or not forestry is allowed, and if motorized vehicles are permitted on the property. Also, if there are any agricultural lands with more than 50% in active agriculture. The properties in mention are Weare Town Forest, Poor Farm Land, Collins Ledge, Kingsbury Timber, the Alex Properties, Schramburg Parcel, Hoit Mill, Toby Hill, Craney Hill One, and the Chicone Land near Pine Hill Estates. Steve suggested that a warrant article be generated that would place these properties under permanent protection through conservation easements, which elicited collective accord among the members at his suggestion. Steve feels that the Weare Town Forest figures defining the acreage are erroneous because of additions such as the transfer station, gravel operation, land fill, highway department, and dog pound. that have chipped away at the original margins. He suggested remapping and setting new boundaries in order to reflect a more accurate definition of this property boundary.

**4) Open Space Meeting** – Pat informed Tom that the WOSC discussed purchasing some pamphlets for folks interested in protecting their land, and the question to Tom is if there are sufficient funds in the operating budget. Tom replied that this purchase can be withdrawn from the *books* line item of the WCC budget. Steve made motion to withdraw \$60.00 from the Commission budget, and Andy 2<sup>nd</sup>. All voted for approval and the motion carried.

**5) Administration Assistant** – Tom intends to ask Bob Christensen if Naomi's job title can be expanded to include Administration Assistant for the Conservation Commission. This extension of her title would officiate her as the contact person for the Commission, who would receive phone calls and relay messages to the Commission members. Tom said that this new position for Naomi has been an ongoing intent. Currently, Merry Rice receives calls for the Commission, but her primary responsibility is to the Selectboard, in which she is already overloaded.

**6) E-mail Address** – Andrea mentioned that the WOSC would like to set up an e-mail address for with the WOSC for contacts with interested land conservation prospects, and she asked Tom if the address should be the WCC or for the WOSC. Andrea will communicate with Tina Pelletier concerning this matter. Andy suggested setting up an e-mail account for the Conservation Commission, and to allow Open Space Committee mail to be “fired off” from there. Tom suggested waiting until a decision is reached concerning Naomi’s position with the Conservation Commission before advancing with the electronic mail concept.

**7) Newly Acquired Properties** – Steve suggested making up a sign for Dustin Meadow, indicating it as conservation land. Steve made a motion to designate it as the Dustin Meadow Conservation Area, to which Pat 2<sup>nd</sup>. All voted in the affirmative, and this motion carried. Tom will pass this information to the BOS. Steve also related that the Chevy Hill parcels need a designation. Steve pointed out that this property name goes back to 1888. Andy made motion to designate it as the Chevy Hill Town Forest, and Andrea 2<sup>nd</sup>. All voted in favor and the motion carried. Steve made note that there should be a news release on this acquisition, and he offered to draft an article pertaining to this property.

**8) Management Plan** – Steve suggested the Commission develop some kind of management plan on all town properties. He suggested contracting out a land consultant, but is undecided if it should be done on a parcel by parcel basis, or have all the properties completed in one fell swoop. The consultant could be useful in managing the town forests, maximizing land use, improving wildlife habitat, delineating parking areas, etc. Steve conveyed he is willing to give John Nute, of the Cooperatative Extension of UNH., to find out how other towns are dealing with this issue. Tom concurred with Steve on this matter, and recommended that he and Steve go to the BOS to seek their input on how best to manage this issue, provide funding, etc. Tom relayed to the Commission that Town Forest Manager Bobby Reeves will be conceding this position in the near future, and on that note, Pat feels the Commission should convey to the BOS that the WCC has the legal responsibility of overseeing the Town Forest. Tom will contact Mr. Reeve to inform him that the Commission will step in and fill his void.

**9) Other:**

- Business Cards – Pat would like to make up business cards which can be made at home on computer. These cards will provide the Commission’s e-mail address, phone number, and any other pertinent information.
- Press Release – Andy mentioned to watch for a press release concerning an article he wrote in the Weare Free Press and Goffstown News.
- Webpage – Pat reminded the Commission that Paul Koscuizek needs to be added to the Commission’s web page, and Andrea needs to be removed as an alternate. Andy will be responsible for the changes. Also, Andy stated he prefers that the webpage record the longevity of each member on the Commission as was previously recorded, verses the current term of service as is now recorded. Additionally, Andy related that the webpage can be used to inform the general public on the purpose and goals of the Commission, and also to remedy any misconceptions that residents may harbor, for instance, stating that there is a rapid and endless turnover rate among the leadership

and members of the Commission was recently erroneously reported in the local media. Such a false claim can be construed as irresponsible and can have a negative impact on the Commission.

- Warrant Article – Tom commented that he felt it was remarkable that with the passage of the new school funding, deficit spending for 6 years because of a default budget, that a new request asking for \$250,000 for conservation came so close to passing. Steve added it's certainly worth trying again.
- Change Tax – Andy stated that it's not too early to ponder a warrant article for next year which would ask the voters to raise the current use tax to 100%, up from the current 75%. Steve added that while he would support such an increase, we need to be careful that this figure doesn't get bumped down at the deliberative session, as happened with other towns.
- Capital Reserve Fund – Pat noted that it may be expedient to set up a capital reserve fund for the Commission but stated she felt cautious in the past to proceed with that idea because she believed the Conservation Fund acts like a capital reserve fund. Andy suggested that a Capital Reserve request would have a greater chance of passing if a specific project were stated and a specific amount were requested. Steve made mention that the Conservation Fund is rooted in state statute and is clearly written so as to eschew confusion. This perception prevailed and the CRF idea was disregarded, at least presently.
- Continuation of Terms – At this time, three members' terms have expired: Tom Carr, Andy Fulton, and John Ciampi. All three members have expressed their intent to continue serving on the Commission for three more years.

**10) Election of Officers** – Tom Carr accepted the nomination for chairman, and Andy made a motion to elect Tom for another year, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pat Myers. All voted in the affirmative and the motion carries. Pat nominated Andy Fulton for position of vice-chair, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve. Andy accepted the nomination. All voted to approve the nomination and the motion carries. Steve nominated John Ciampi for the position of secretary, and Andy 2<sup>nd</sup>. John accepted the nomination. All voted to approve and the motion carries.

**11) By-laws** - Tom urged the members to review the Commission's by-laws and to suggest any changes at next months meeting.

**12) Adjournment** – Andy made motion to adjourn, and Pat 2<sup>nd</sup>. With no further business to conduct this evening, Tom called the meeting to adjournment at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully Recorded As a True Record,

CC: BOS

Commission Files  
Town Clerk, Tina Pelletier

John Ciampi

John Ciampi

